

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A vertical docking apparatus comprising:
 - a docking receiver member having a docking surface;
 - a guide member extending vertically from an edge of the docking surface;
 - a plurality of elongated locating members extending vertically from the docking surface;
 - a first connector extending vertically from the docking surface;
 - a plurality of locking members mounted on the docking surface;
 - a docking member having a mating surface for engagement with the docking surface;
 - a plurality of locating receivers on the mating surface for receiving the locating members;
 - a second connector extending vertically from the mating surface; and
 - a plurality of locking member receivers mounted on the mating surface, whereby primary engagement of the docking member with the guide member and secondary engagement of the locating members with the locating receivers aligns the first and second connectors for seating and for engagement of the locking members and the locking member receivers.
2. The apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the docking receiver member is a media slice.
3. The apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein the docking member is an information handling system.

4. The apparatus as defined in claim 1 further comprising:
a plurality of ejection members housed in the docking receiver member.
5. The apparatus as defined in claim 4 further comprising:
an ejection mechanism located on the docking receiver member.
6. The apparatus as defined in claim 4 further comprising:
means on the docking member receiver for disengaging the locking members from the locking member receivers and extending the ejection members vertically from the docking surface.
7. The apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein the docking receiver member includes a cavity that is open to the docking surface.
8. The apparatus as defined in claim 7 further comprising:
a battery in the cavity.
9. The apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of the locking members is oriented to function in a first direction and at least one of the locking members is oriented to function in a second direction opposite the first direction.
10. The apparatus as defined in claim 1 further comprising:
a locking mechanism on the docking receiver member.
11. The apparatus as defined in claim 1 further comprising:
means on the docking member receiver for locking the locking members in the locking members receivers.

12. An information handling system comprising:
 - a docking receiver member having a docking surface;
 - a guide member extending vertically from an edge of the docking surface;
 - a plurality of elongated locating members extending vertically from the docking surface;
 - a first connector extending vertically from the docking surface;
 - a plurality of locking members mounted on the docking surface;
 - a docking member including a microprocessor and a storage coupled to the microprocessor and having a mating surface for engagement with the docking surface;
 - a plurality of locating receivers on the mating surface for receiving the locating members;
 - a second connector extending vertically from the mating surface; and
 - a plurality of locking member receivers mounted on the mating surface, whereby primary engagement of the docking member with the guide member and secondary engagement of the locating members with the locating receivers aligns the first and second connectors for seating and for engagement of the locking members and the locking member receivers.
13. The system as defined in claim 12 wherein the docking receiver member is a media slice.
14. The system as defined in Claim 13 wherein the docking member is a portable computer.
15. The system as defined in claim 12 further comprising:
 - a plurality of ejection members housed in the docking receiver member.

16. The system as defined in claim 15 further comprising:
an ejection mechanism located on the docking receiver member.
17. The system as defined in claim 15 further comprising:
means on the docking member receiver for disengaging the locking members from the locking member receivers and extending the ejection members vertically from the docking surface.
18. The system as defined in claim 12 wherein the docking receiver member includes a cavity that is open to the docking surface.
19. The system as defined in claim 18 further comprising:
a battery in the cavity.
20. The apparatus as defined in claim 12 wherein at least one of the locking members is oriented to function in a first direction and at least one of the locking members is oriented to function in a second direction opposite the first direction.
21. The system as defined in claim 12 further comprising:
a locking mechanism on the docking receiver member.
22. The system as defined in claim 12 further comprising:
means on the docking member receiver for locking the locking members in the locking members receivers.

23. A method for vertically docking an information handling system comprising:
 - providing a docking receiver member having a docking surface;
 - providing a guide member extending vertically from an edge of the docking surface;
 - providing a plurality of elongated locating members extending vertically from the docking surface;
 - providing a first connector extending vertically from the docking surface;
 - providing a plurality of locking members mounted on the docking surface;
 - providing a docking member having a mating surface for engagement with the docking surface;
 - providing a plurality of locating receivers on the mating surface for receiving the locating members;
 - providing a second connector extending vertically from the mating surface;
 - providing a plurality of locking member receivers mounted on the mating surface;
 - engaging the docking member with the guide member;
 - engaging the locating members with the locating receivers for aligning the first and second connectors;
 - engaging the locking members with the locking receivers; and
 - connecting the first and second connectors.
24. The method as defined in claim 23 wherein the locating members and locating member receivers provide means for maintaining the docking member substantially parallel to the docking receiver member during a vertical movement of the docking member.